

FALL 2006

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# ANSWERING THE CALL

PREPARING KENTUCKY'S COMMUNITIES • FIRST RESPONDERS • FAMILIES

"The urgency of our nation's security is the calling of our times" – President George W. Bush

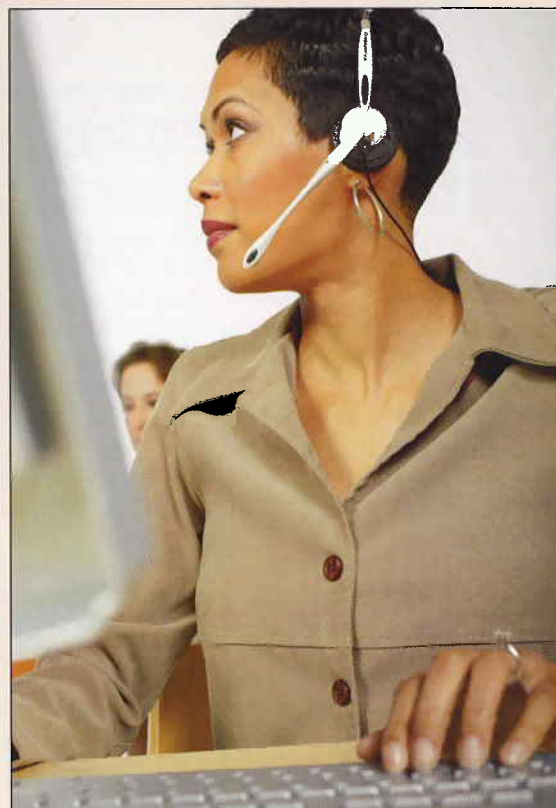
## 9-1-1 SERVICES TO RECEIVE UPGRADE

"9-1-1, what is your emergency?" This phrase is one that every American has come to trust and rely upon when we have a critical need for help. 9-1-1 provides us with the assurance that assistance is only a phone call away.

While the 9-1-1 emergency system has been in place for decades, many of Kentucky's communities don't have the latest in 9-1-1 dispatching equipment. The reason being, as many local officials can attest, is that there simply hasn't been enough money to pay for it.

In order to deal with this lapse in funding, Governor Ernie Fletcher and the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security spearheaded an effort in this year's General Assembly to increase funding for local 9-1-1 centers. As a result, House Bill 656 passed the State Legislature with wide bipartisan support as many local dispatching centers now stand to benefit from a more than 50% increase in funding.

We all recognize that emergencies can and do happen and they can take place in every community across the commonwealth. That is why we have a responsibility to ensure we have a top rate 9-1-1 system here in Kentucky. Kentucky's communities, first responders and families deserve nothing less.



## PREPARING COMMUNITIES

# TAKING COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

The Kentucky Community Preparedness Program (KCPP), a unique initiative working to strengthen the security of small and medium-sized communities in Kentucky by locating and eliminating potential vulnerabilities, has lately added a number of major improvements to the program in recent months.

The assessors have recently created a visual technology that will link information and location to provide vital data to First Responders when they answer emergency calls. Using Geo-coded addresses and GPS coordinates gathered in the field, the assessment teams are compiling a statewide database of each site the teams visited during their first sixty community assessments. The database, which is linked to a detailed map of the state, shows geographically all of the information that the teams have collected and the location of each site in relation to each other. KCPP plans to provide the completed geographic information system to the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security for use in the Intelligence and Information Fusion Center. Information from all sixty communities assessed in 2005 has been entered into the database, and information from the 2006 assessments is currently being added.

Additionally, a new component involving religious facility assessments has also been implemented. The program teaches religious leaders how to do a self assessment of the physical property and policies and procedures of their facilities as they relate to terrorism or incidents of mass violence. It also promotes awareness of vulnerabilities and makes suggestions for prevention, deterrence and mitigation of hostile acts.



Photo courtesy of Jacinta Manning

Kentucky Community Preparedness Program assessors Jarred Ball and Kevin Kelly work on a geographic information system that will show geographically all the sites the teams visited during the first 60 community assessments.

## PREPARING FIRST RESPONDERS

# KYOPS ADDS E-INTELLIGENCE REPORTING

Nearly every law enforcement agency in Kentucky is now able to electronically report potential terrorist or other criminal activity in real time to state analysts.

Recently, the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, with the help of a grant provided by the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, added e-Intelligence to its electronic-reporting system, called Kentucky's Open Portal Solution, or KyOPS.

Through e-Intelligence, law enforcement officers can inform state intelligence analysts of suspicious behavior that could be related to terrorism or other crime, such as a person parked along an interstate bridge taking photos of infrastructure that wouldn't usually be considered photogenic.

The state analysts then decide what to do with the information.

The e-Intelligence program has been online since November.

"The Justice Cabinet needed to find the fastest way to identify possible terrorist and other criminal activity," KSP Lt. John Carrico, who helped develop and works with KyOPS, said of the addition of e-Intelligence. "Now every police department in the state can provide the fastest most accurate information at no cost to the department."

KY OPS, which was created specifically for Kentucky, went online in 2000 with one application, e-Crash. The program, headed by the Justice Cabinet, allowed officers to submit vehicle collision reports electronically. Now the system includes programs for reporting crime, traffic citations and warnings and other information.

More than 90 percent of law enforcement agencies in Kentucky use at least one of the KY OPS applications, Carrico said.

KY OPS is available to all agencies at no cost and training is free.

For more information about KyOPS, please contact the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security at (502) 564-2081.



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Thomas

Kentucky's Intelligence Fusion Center is a functional center focused on an all-crime approach and situation awareness to prevent crime and acts of terrorism.



## PREPARING FAMILIES

# PREPARING MAKES GOOD BUSINESS SENSE FOR KENTUCKY COMPANIES

The "Avoid the Panic Button: Protect Your Family" campaign may be off to a fast start, but the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security is working to make sure that message is heard in the workplace as well. This fall, KOHS will be offering "Business Preparedness Summits" aimed at providing Kentucky's small and medium-sized businesses with information on how to plan and prepare for emergencies of all kinds.

This program will bring in public and private sector preparedness leaders to provide a forum for businesses to get help with the complex issues of business continuity and crisis management.

The "Business Preparedness Summits" are a partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Ready Business program which currently offers some commonsense measures business owners and managers can take to begin preparing their companies. It also provides practical steps and easy-to-use templates to help business leaders plan for their company's future and provides useful links to resources providing more detailed business continuity and disaster preparedness information.

More information concerning the Business Preparedness initiative will be available in the coming months. For more information about how to protect yourself, your family or your business, please visit [www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov](http://www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov) or [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov).



## NEWSLETTER COMMENTS BY (RET.) MAJ. ALECIA WEBB-EDGINGTON DIRECTOR, KENTUCKY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY



Photo courtesy of Kirk Schile

(Ret.) Major Alecia Webb-Edgington

The recent White House report "Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned," illustrated in tragic detail many of our nation's preparedness and response shortcomings. One key area of the report focused on the lack of a comprehensive prevention-focused homeland security strategy, which takes into consideration not only man-made attacks but natural disasters as well. The Lessons Learned report called for a fresh strategy that would "foster a new, robust culture of preparedness."

In Kentucky, I believe that we are on the forefront of building a culture where community and family emergency preparedness is commonplace, but we have much work to do. By working together to coordinate resources and services, and with the aid of our preparedness website [www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov](http://www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov), we will continue to build a statewide culture of preparedness.

I want to encourage our Commonwealth's local officials, first response agencies, private sector industries, and every Kentuckian to also do your part. By ensuring that your constituents, employees, and family members have the information they need to make an emergency plan, get an emergency supplies kit and get involved with local volunteer organizations and Citizen Corps programs, you can help make a difference in Kentucky's communities.

### TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Our goal is to coordinate and collaborate with you, our preparedness partners. We welcome your thoughts and ideas.

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## TRAINING CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

A new training calendar, found in the Training Section of [www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov), is now available to all first responders and responder training entities. The calendar shows weekly, monthly, and yearly views of upcoming training events. Emergency Responders can check this calendar for updates on open training courses across Kentucky. Additionally, KOHS invites all training entities and organizations to list their open training events on the calendar.

To list an event, please e-mail Tom Arnold, state training coordinator, at [tom.arnold@ky.gov](mailto:tom.arnold@ky.gov), or call 502-564-2081.

## JUSTICEXCHANGE™ HELPING JUSTICE COMMUNITY BETTER TRACK CRIMINALS

JusticeXchange™, which recently became available to the state's criminal justice community, provides law enforcement and justice agencies with instant access to information concerning incarcerated offenders.

JusticeXchange™ tracks 100% of state and local jail beds in Kentucky and accounts for 43% of all county jail beds throughout the country. Previously, law enforcement and other justice agencies had no way of tracking incarcerated offenders other than to physically call each prison facility across the state, or, if available, check each facility's website. JusticeXchange™ provides instant access to that information.

Though the program has only been operational for a few months, the JusticeXchange™ system has already marked successes here in Kentucky. Recently, the Louisville Metro Police Department had four felony warrants out for the arrest of an individual wanted on gun and drug charges. By using the JusticeXchange™ system, Metro Police were able to determine that the subject was already being held in Oldham County allowing them to easily serve felony warrants on the individual before the subject was released.